Region, continue to spew thick smoke and discharge effluents severely polluting the environment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that any lacunae in law is not invoked with impunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been asked to identify such industries in respect of which stringent steps could be taken under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which provides for deterrent penalties including closure of polluting units and disconnection of water and electricity.

Directive to state Governments for improving condition of Agricultural Labour

447. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time in 1982 Government had issued a directive to all the State Governments to enact suitable legislation to improve the working conditions of the agricultural labour in the country;

(b) if so, what percentage of the workforce was engaged in agricultural sector at the end of 1986; and

(c) what follow-up action has been taken for the enactment of legislation by the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Due to absence of unanimity on the issue of having a Central law for agricultural workers, it was decided to leave it to the State Government to enact a legislation for agricultural workers. The State Governments/ Union Territories were advised accordingly in 1982.

(b) Figures of 1986 are not available. However, as per the 1981 census, approximately 60.51 per cent of the workforce was engaged in agriculture.

(c) The Central Government has not received any information from the State Governments in this regard.

Simplification of Procedure relating to Import and Export

448 SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a management study team of his Ministry has recently submitted a report on how to simplify procedure relating to import and export;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Study Team has recommended, *inter alia*, phased introduction of computerisation in certain functional areas, strengthening of existing counter assistance system and a facility of counter delivery of import licence; delegation of powers for issue of certain licences, setting up of Regional Licensing Committees in respect of Advance and Supplementary Licences in more regional offices, training programmes for personnel, strengthening the existing enforcement machinery, improved coordination among various sponsoring authorities etc.